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Hurricane Response:

1 — Mayor, council clash over Harvey debris removal questions, Houston Chronicle, 9/20/17

<http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/politics/houston/article/Mayor-council-clash-over-Harvey-debris-removal-12216212.php>

City Council members under pressure from constituents to remove the thousands of piles of Hurricane Harvey wreckage on Houston curbs spent Wednesday morning shouting over each other about the topic before delaying a proposal Mayor Sylvester Turner said is needed to meet the city's goal of trucking 150,000 cubic yards of that debris to landfills each day.

2 — Cleanup crews have removed '8 football fields' worth of debris after Harvey, Houston Chronicle, 9/20/17

<http://www.chron.com/news/houston-weather/hurricanes/article/State-cleanup-crews-removed-8-football-fields-12215582.php>

State workers are busy removing signs of Harvey's devastation across Texas. So far, 432,000 cubic feet or eight football fields worth of debris have been cleared from Texas roadways, according to Gov. Greg Abbott.

3 — Valero's Port Arthur fire released an estimated 1 million pounds of emissions, Houston Chronicle, 9/20/17

<http://www.chron.com/business/energy/article/Valero-s-Port-Arthur-fire-released-an-estimated-1-12215325.php>

Valero Energy's refinery fire on Tuesday released nearly 1 million pounds of emissions into the air, mostly from the columns of smoke caused by the burning oil, the San Antonio company estimated.

4 — What lurks in the sludge that Harvey left behind?, Houston Chronicle, 9/20/17

<http://www.houstonchronicle.com/local/gray-matters/article/What-s-in-the-sludge-that-Harvey-has-left-behind-12198432.php>

All over the Houston area, as Harvey's floodwaters receded, they left behind sludge – a mix of grit and debris picked up from streets and sewers and eroded bayou banks.

5 — Kept waiting, Kashmere Gardens is helping itself after Harvey, Houston Chronicle,

9/20/17

<http://www.houstonchronicle.com/local/gray-matters/article/Kept-waiting-Kashmere-Garden-helps-itself-after-12215726.php>

Kashmere Gardens is a historically African-American community with a growing Hispanic population and one of the poorest in Houston. Kashmere Gardens lies just beside Hunting Bayou and was one of the first areas to flood during Hurricane Harvey. It has been in a terrible waiting game ever since.

Around the Region:

6 — Massive, two-state Pearl River cleanup set for Saturday, New Orleans Times-Picayune, 9/20/17

http://www.nola.com/northshore/index.ssf/2017/09/massive_two-state_pearl_river.html

Scores of volunteers will fan across hundreds of miles of the Pearl River and its banks from Mississippi to the Gulf Coast for a cleanup effort on Saturday (Sept. 23).

7 — DowDuPont opens massive ethylene and plastics plant in Freeport, San Antonio Express-News, 9/21/17

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/business/energy/article/DowDuPont-opens-massive-ethylene-and-plastics-12217420.php>

The newly merged DowDuPont said Thursday it's opening its new ethylene and plastics plants in Freeport, making the nation's largest chemical giant the first to start up a major ethylene complex along the Texas Gulf Coast.

8 — EPA installs barrier, valve in mine that spilled toxic waste, NBC Denver, 9/20/17

<http://www.9news.com/news/local/epa-installs-barrier-valve-in-mine-that-spilled-toxic-waste/477351378>

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is installing a barrier and valve inside an inactive Colorado mine to prevent another surge of toxic wastewater like a 2015 blowout that contaminated rivers in three states.

9 — Mining leaves legacy of contamination on reservations, Eastern Arizona Courier, 9/20/17

http://www.eacourier.com/news/mining-leaves-legacy-of-contamination-on-reservations/article_c4dfd68c-9d8a-11e7-865a-9f4848b3d740.html

Mining companies have extracted materials such as gold, uranium and coal on Native American lands for centuries. The contamination left behind, such as excess lead, selenium and chromium, remain long after the miners' final paychecks.

10 — U.S. regulator aiming to allow controversial herbicide use with safeguards, Reuters, 9/20/17

<http://reut.rs/2hlXrqz>

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is aiming to allow farmers to spray the controversial weed-killer dicamba next year, but with additional rules for its use, an official with the agency said on Tuesday.

11 — EPA Announces Updates to Pesticide Label Review Manual, National Law Review, 9/20/17

<https://www.natlawreview.com/article/epa-announces-updates-to-pesticide-label-review-manual>

On September 19, 2017, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced an update to Chapters 15 and 16 of the Office of Pesticide Programs' (OPP) Label Review Manual.

12 — EPA Extends Compliance Date for Substantiation of CBI and Schedules Three Webinars to Discuss Reporting under TSCA Inventory Notification (Active-Inactive) Rule, National Law Review, 9/20/17

<https://www.natlawreview.com/article/epa-extends-compliance-date-substantiation-cbi-and-schedules-three-webinars-to>

On September 20, 2017, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a notice in the Federal Register stating that it is extending the compliance date by which submitters of Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) submissions containing information claimed as Confidential Business Information (CBI).

13 — Fluoride OK'd for Albuquerque water supply, Albuquerque Journal, 9/20/17

<https://www.abqjournal.com/1066713/fluoride-okd-for-albuquerque-water-supply.html>

Fluoride again will be added to Albuquerque's water supply. Water utility board members voted 5-2 Wednesday to approve a \$250,000 appropriation that will allow the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority to buy the equipment needed to resume supplemental drinking-water fluoridation, which the utility halted in 2011.

14 — A federal decision threatens thousands of jobs in Texas' fast-growing solar industry, Dallas Morning News, 9/20/17

<https://www.dallasnews.com/business/energy/2017/09/21/federal-decision-threatens-thousands-jobs-texas-fast-growing-solar-industry>

A trade decision out of Washington D.C. on Friday could derail Texas' momentum as one of the nation's fastest growing solar energy markets and eliminate thousands of new jobs in the state, industry leaders say.